

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3 by deleting the requirement that the sections be joined together "by throughbolts". The specification does not make any statement about throughbolts being required.

Applicant also has amended claim 1 by deleting the requirement that the contact block is "substantially cylindrical". The specification does not make any statement that the contact block need by substantially cylindrical.


Applicant also has amended claim 1 be deleting the requirement that the stationary contacts be in pairs. This amendment is supported in the published patent specification at col. 3, lines 39-42 where it states "Preferably, two stationary contacts 18 are located on either side of each moveable contact 28..." (emphasis added).

Finally, applicant has added new claims 4 and 5 which contain all the limitations of claim 2 and underlying claim 1 except that they require only three and two discrete switching patterns respectively, whereas claim 2 requires four discrete switching patterns. Both of these new claims are supported in the specification at col. 4, lines 20-24 where it states "The inverter bypass safety switch may be configured in either a two position, three position, four position unit, depending on the needs of the user. The two position unit has a DRIVE and a LINE

position. The three position unit has DRIVE, LINE, and OFF positions."

It is believed that this constitutes a complete response to the December 12, 2000 Office Action. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney with any questions relating to this application.

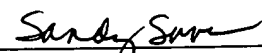
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dated: 12/21/00

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, DC 20231.

Dec. 22 2000  
  
Signature